

**Nevada State Health Division
Special Issues Task Force Meeting
Minutes
Thursday, September 11, 2003
1:30 P.M.**

**Bureau of Licensure and Certification
4220 S. Maryland Parkway
Suite 810 Building D
Las Vegas, NV 89119**

Task Force Participants Present

Mike Ganti, Margaret Rose Residential Care Center/Red Rock Assisted Living
Chuck Hall, HFS II, BLC
Paul Shubert, HFS III, BLC

Call-In Participants

Margaret McConnell, Charleston Residential Care Hotel

The meeting began at approximately 1:40pm. Introductions were not necessary.

Paul asked for any changes to the minutes for the 8/14/03 task force meeting. These minutes were approved.

The next agenda item was discussion of a plan to begin development of regulations as required by AB 326. Chuck Hall will be the lead staff for this project. It was decided that the task force meeting would be a good forum for getting the interested parties together in order to begin discussion. It was further decided that the next task force meeting would be 10/16/03. This should allow time for Chuck to contact interested parties to include: An AARP representative, a Medicaid representative, a CARE representative and a representative from Assemblywoman Barbara Buckley's office.

The consensus is to keep to the plan of inserting regulations into the residential facility for groups requirements indicating what a facility would need to comply with in order to receive an endorsement for providing assisted living services. A draft document with proposed language has been prepared for distribution to all interested parties as a starting point for discussion. It fairly closely mirrors the language in the assembly bill.

Chuck has prepared a cross-walk between most of the core principles discussed in AB 326 that already have equivalent requirements in the regulations for residential facilities. The plan is to ensure as little repetition as possible, since those facilities that apply for an endorsement to provide assisted living services will need to comply with the other applicable residential facility regulations in order to obtain a license as a residential facility for groups. It was noted that Larry Fry of CARE had also done such a cross-walk during the legislative process and so Chuck will obtain a copy of Mr. Fry's cross-walk for comparison.

The next agenda item was public comment. Margaret McConnell discussed some potential changes for the presentation of language changes to residential facility regulations to be heard at the 9/12/03 board of health (BOH) meeting. One concern that didn't get addressed in either the original changes nor the errata is as follows: there should be an allowance for the resident located in a private room, who is capable of self administration, to keep medication in his room (out of sight) but not in a locked container that requires him to find a key each time he is self administering his medication at NAC 449.2748(1). It was indicated that this will help the facility to foster a homelike environment for residents in their own room. If this isn't presented during the BOH meeting on 9/12/03, it should receive consideration during development of the assisted living regulations.

Margaret asked that the tuberculosis testing guidelines be consolidated and provided in a format that could be electronically transmitted to interested parties.

Mike Ganti spoke briefly about the need to speak with state and county representatives to expand the definition of Mentally Ill persons to include homeless persons, indigent persons with a history of drug/alcohol abuse and persons with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Clark County doesn't provide assistance to persons with mental illness under the age of 65. Since there is no monetary assistance available up front for homeless persons with mental illness, a large burden is placed on facilities that attempt to provide services to this population. In the meantime, there is an overwhelming need for such services in Nevada. Facilities that provide services to mentally

ill residents also have the burden of additional scrutiny and increased premiums from insurance providers. There should be additional emphasis put on the mental health endorsement and there should be incentives for facilities that have an endorsement to provide services to persons with mental illness.

The next meeting will be 10-16-03 same time, same place.

Consensus was to adjourn the meeting at approximately 3:00pm.